

VZCZCXRO9853
OO RUEHDA
DE RUEHAK #0009/01 0051509
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 051509Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8372
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC//PA
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU
INFO RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 9387
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 5179
RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA 3487
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 7040
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 6898
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3479
RUEUITH/DET 1 39LG ANKARA TU
RHMFIASS/USDOCO 6ATAF IZMIR TU
RHMFIASS/39OS INCIRLIK AB TU
RHMFIASS/AFOSI DET 523 IZMIR TU
RHMFIASS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU
RHMFIASS/AFOSI DET 522 INCIRLIK AB TU
RUEUITH/AFLO ANKARA TU

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000009

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC KMDR TU
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009

In Today's Papers

Economic Crisis Affects 190,000 Workers in Turkey
Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports a survey commissioned by Allied Metal Workers' Union says some employers see the global economic crisis as "an opportunity to layoff workers." The survey shows total employment was reduced by 44,000 jobs in October 2008, including the job losses in the construction sector. The metal and ready-wear sectors were affected most by the crisis. In October, 9,000 registered workers lost their jobs in Istanbul, 7,000 in Izmir, 6,000 in Bursa, and 2,000 in Aydin and Kocaeli, according to the survey.

"Savagery" (Sabah)
Media outlets unanimously criticize Israel's ground invasion into Gaza with sensational headlines. Particular attention is paid to the "baby-killing" aspect of the story, as TVs and papers use sensational headlines and photos of Palestinian children who were either injured or killed during the operations. Leftist Taraf carries the headline, "Israel Goes Completely Mad over Its Fear of Obama," as "Israel launches ground operations into Gaza during the few remaining days of the Bush administration, its ally." Islamist-oriented Yeni Safak carries the headline, "Divide and Destroy," as "Cluster bombs are used and the world just sits back and watches," but "Turkey Curses This Barbarism." Mainstream Vatan uses the headline, "Humanitarian Drama," as "Once again, the U.S. supports Israel at the U.N.," while "Israel hits everything, including ambulances." Islamist-oriented Zaman reports, "Gaza Weeps Blood," and reports, "Norwegian doctors have found uranium in some of the bodies of the dead (from depleted-uranium ordinance)." Liberal Radikal reports, "Israeli Tanks Move into the Belly of Gaza." Mainstream Milliyet reports, "Death Rains on Civilians in Gaza." Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports, "Israel Burns Gaza," as "Turkey's role as a mediator is proposed by some in the Western press, including David Ignatius of the Washington Post."

Columnists predict Israel will pay for its actions in Gaza for a long time to come. Ferai Tinc wrote in mainstream Hurriyet, "Israel wants to take Gaza completely out of Hamas' control. In the end however, the Israeli operations will legitimize Hamas even more than

ever before." Ergin Yildizoglu wrote in leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet, "Israel hopes to get rid of Hamas before Bush leaves office, but the current Israeli attack is providing more fuel to radicalism especially in Iran, Syria and Palestine." Tamer Korkmaz wrote in Islamist oriented Yeni Safak: "Israel, which attacks mosques and kills children, is a terrorist state and its sponsor is the United States." Ceyda Karan wrote in liberal-intellectual Radikal, "Even if Israel defeats Hamas, this will not help Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas get politically stronger. Future steps toward peace will always be overshadowed by Israeli's actions, which will provide an advantage to Hamas regardless of the situation." Omer Taspinar wrote in mainstream Sabah: "Obama will continue to support Israel, but unlike the Bush administration, he is expected to make diplomatic inroads toward the main Israel-rejecting bloc, namely Iran and Syria."

"Noteworthy Donations"

Ordu MHP Deputy Ridvan Yalcin made a formal request to the government about the financing of several Turkish foundations. In response, the Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister in charge of foundations, Hayati Yazici, presented a list of 39 foundations and donations to them from foreign sources including the EU, the U.S. and Japan. Mainstream Milliyet reports that often, foreign actors are thought to use their financial support to manipulate in the domestic agendas of certain countries through financial support. In addition, Milliyet notes that 39 private non-profit foundations in Turkey receive upwards of \$40 million aid from foreign charity organizations and foreign government institutes. Milliyet notes

ANKARA 00000009 002 OF 002

that the U.S. Embassy in Ankara gave \$129,000 to the Ensar Foundation, which is known for its Islamist religious activities and \$175,000 to the Open Society Institute (TESEV), which was formed by George Soros. The U.S. Embassy also donated \$12,280 to International Blue Crescent Humanitarian Aid and Development Foundation.

TV News:
CNN Turk

Domestic News

- On Monday, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem will visit Ankara to discuss Israel's assault on Gaza with his Turkish counterpart Ali Babacan as well as President Gul and PM Erdogan.
- An IMF delegation will visit Turkey in January to hold talks for a new stand-by deal.
- On Monday, the Turkish Parliament will discuss the Kyoto Protocol.

International News

- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson withdraws as President-elect Barack Obama's nominee for commerce secretary.
- The oldest Soviet spy Anatoly Gurevich has died in St. Petersburg at the age of 95.

JEFFREY